

2009 Legislative Wrap-Up

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INDIANA HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES



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What important issues are facing our state today in your opinion?

Please feel free to e-mail your thoughts to me at h87@iga.in.gov, post your comments on my Web site at www.in.gov/h87, or return this card with your comments below.

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Taxpayers are Winners in New State Budget

I believe the new state budget, based on solid common-sense principles, is a success for Hoosier taxpayers and public education.

Although the budget is a bipartisan compromise, with all 48 House Republicans voting for it, House Republican principles remained an important influence. It is a success, I believe, because:

- It contains no general tax increases.
- It maintains at least \$1 billion in state reserves.
- It uses one-time federal stimulus money responsibly, including statewide infrastructure projects.
- It does not deplete trust funds or other dedicated money for operating expenses.

Gov. Mitch Daniels, along with House and Senate Republicans, outlined these standards early in the process and did not waver. While many states are cutting overall education spending, raising taxes or both, this budget does neither. It even promises more support for education through additional funding. In addition, the "education trigger" would allot 50 percent of state revenue to education when income exceeds revenue projections.

Statewide public education receives what I believe is solid support:

- K-12 education gained an average increase of 1.1 percent in calendar year 2010 and 0.3 percent in calendar year 2011.
- The budget fully funds K-12 anticipated enrollment increases at rapidly growing public schools.
- The Ivy Tech Community College network was given enhanced support, and bonding was authorized to fund 38 university capital projects throughout the state, including science and laboratory projects at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.
 - The state's higher education scholarship grants program receives increases of 6 percent in fiscal year 2010 and 3 percent in fiscal year 2011.

I believe this is the right budget for Indiana right now, and that's why I voted for it.



Rep. Noe talks about the legislative process with a group of local students during a tour of the Statehouse.



Rep. Noe gives instruction to a legislative page on the House floor. To find out how you can serve as a page, visit: http://tinyurl.com/HousePage

Helping Our Youngest Drivers

I supported a new law that limits distractions for our newest, most inexperienced drivers by banning drivers under 18 from using a cell phone or texting, except for emergency calls, while driving. It also sets limits on when they may carry passengers.

Providing Autism Training for Emergency Responders

Emergency first-responders now will be provided with autism training, which will better equip them to handle emergency situations involving people with autism. Autism is a developmental disability that affects a person's ability to interact with others. Because Indiana's autism rate is increasing, the state Department of Education will help train noncertified school employees about the early warning signs of autism.

Assisting At-Risk Students

The School Dropout Prevention Fund will help school officials both identify students at risk of dropping out and work with the students so they can earn their high school diplomas. More than 9,000 Hoosier students drop out of high school every year, severely limiting their chances for a successful adulthood.

Military Family Relief Fund

Access to the Military Family Relief Fund was expanded to include all active duty personnel and not just those in the National Guard or reserves. The fund now may provide education and employment assistance. This law should give military families peace of mind during a stressful time, when family members are serving overseas.

Information for Representative Cindy Noe

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